

Economic Growth Region 2 Summary

Indiana Economic Growth Region 2 is located in the center of the northernmost part of Indiana. It is comprised of five counties: Saint Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, Fulton, and Kosciusko. The South Bend-Mishawaka IN-MI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Elkhart-Goshen MSA are located in this region. Since January 2005 the 2 counties of Saint Joseph County Indiana and Cass County Michigan joined to form the South Bend-Mishawaka IN-MI MSA. Saint Joseph County has the largest population base in the region with over 44 percent of the population with Elkhart County next at 33 percent. Together these counties make up about 76 percent of the region's population. The county seat for Saint Joseph County is South Bend. The other county seats of the region include: Goshen in Elkhart County, Plymouth in Marshall County, Rochester in Fulton County and Warsaw in Kosciusko County.

The Census Bureau has estimated the population of Region 2 for 2007 as 607,433 people. This total was an increase of 19,387 or 3.3 percent from the 2000 Census total of 588,046. The 2007 estimated population made up 9.6 percent of the total Indiana State estimated population of 6,344,881.

The region's "labor force" represents workers who reside in the region no matter where they work. Based on Indiana Department of Revenue Indiana IT-40 returns for 2007, persons living in but commuting to work out of the region were estimated at 12,044 or 3.1 percent of the labor force. The outside area where the largest number of Region 2 residents went to work was the State of Michigan. The regional "work force" represents all workers employed in the region no matter where they reside. In 2007 persons commuting to work into the region from outside areas were estimated as 36,712 or 8.8 percent of the work force. The area sending the greatest number of persons into the county to work was the State of Michigan.

For the year 2007 there were 309,752 jobs at industries within this five county region. The largest employing industry in the region was Manufacturing, having 33.3 percent of the total industry employment, with health care & social assistance second at 10.3 percent.

The industry showing the most growth in workers over a three year period to 2007 was transportation & warehousing, increasing by 2,066 workers or 36.4 percent above the 5,682 total workers in that industry in 2004. Region 2 has 14,214 firms, with 524 firms or about 3.7 percent employing 100 or more workers, while firms employing fewer than 10 workers account for 67.3 percent. Also, the number firms employing fewer than 10 workers declined 1.4 per cent or 138 firms between 1999 and 2007 to total 9,568 firms in 2007.

The 2007 all-industry average earnings for Region 2 was \$36,579 per year versus the overall Indiana average of \$37,529. The region average wage represented an increase of 6.6 percent over 2004's region industry average wage of \$34,314. Seventeen of Region 2's twenty industry sectors (including government) had annual average earnings lower than the Indiana average for those industries. The region's management of companies & enterprises industry had the highest average earnings at \$77,173 per year, with utilities second at \$64,127; the industry with the lowest annual earnings number was accommodation & food services at \$11,750. The same industries statewide paid an average \$72,683, \$66,783, and \$12,456 per year, respectively.

Source of Employment and Wage Data: Indiana Department of Workforce Development,
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

Bruce Bendull, Regional Analyst
(219) 762-6592 extension 327
b-bendull@dwd.in.gov
Updated 2/27/09